

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00151 100959Z

21

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 SCCT-01 SY-02 DRC-01 /061 W

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R 100852Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 724

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 151

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: ELECTION DAYS DAWNS QUIETLY

REF: BELFAST A-71

1. POLLS OPENED 7 A.M. OCT. 10 FOR ONE MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS NORTH IRELAND DECIDE BETWEEN 43 CANDIDATES FOR 12 SEATS PARLIAMENT. THERE INDICATIONS APATHY AMONG ELECTORATE ULSTER AND "OUT" PARTIES SUCH AS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) AND ALLIANCE ATTEMPTING TO TURN OUT MORE THAN 70 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE WHO VOTED LAST FEBRUARY.

2. ULSTER UNITED UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) MANAGED HOLD TOGETHER UNTIL ELECTION DAY BUT INDICATIONS THAT UUUC TO BECOME SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY MATCHED BY SIGNS UNEASY ALLIANCE STRAINING AT SEAMS. EX-UNIONIST ROY BRADFORD WHO ASSEMBLY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT NAUNOUNCED HIS SUPPORT OCT. 8 FOR VANGUARD UNIONIST BILL CRAIG IN EAST BELFAST. THIS PROVOKED BLASTS INCLUDING ONE BY DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST IAN PAISLEY WHO PUBLICLY REJECTED BRADFORD AS ALLY. PAISLEY ALSO MOVED TO DISCIPLINE TRADE UNIONIST GLENN BARR WHO SUPPORTS CRAIG IN EAST BELFAST BUT OPPOSES DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST JOHN MC QUADE BY SUPPORTING

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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00151 100959Z

VOLUNTEER PARTY CANDIDATE KEN GIBSON IN WEST BELFAST. DISCIPLINE

THREATS AROUSED SPECULATION THAT PARA-MILITARY GROUPS AND ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL MIGHT BREAK AWAY FROM UUUC TO REFORM UNDER VOLUNTEER STANDARD. UUUC CANDIDATE ENOCH POWELL HAS MADE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO COALITION DIFFICULTIES. HE MISTAKENLY ANNOUNCED THAT SUCCESSFUL UUUC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES WOULD NOT BE RUNNING IN SUBSEQUENT CONVENTION ELECTION, HE HAS SPENT THE LAST THREE DAYS DENYING THAT HE FAVORED CLOSING HARLAND AND WOLFF SHIPYARD AND THE UUUC LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED BY WHAT SEEMS TO BE CONTINUATION HIS CALL TO BRITISH VOTERS TO VOTE LABOUR. PREDICTIONS (REF AIRGRAM) UUUC VICTORIES HOLD UP HOWEVER. MID-ULSTER STILL TOSS-UP WITH SDLP CANDIDATE IVAN COOPER RUNNING HARD AGAINST UUUC DUNLOP.

3. THERE NO RPT NOT EARLY TERRORIST ATTEMPTS DISRUPT VOTING. ARMY BROUGHT IN FIVE HUNDRED MORE SOLDIERS FOR ELECTION AND ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT COMPLETELY ACTIVATED. ANOTHER BOMB IN CASTLE STREET ADJACENT TO CONGEN WRECK PUB OCT 9. AGAIN NO RPT NO WARNING GIVE,. RUMORS OF INTENDED PROVISIONAL IRA "BLITZ" SO FAR NOT RPT NOT SUBSTANTIATED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELFAS00151
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740288-0234
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741057/aaaabwuq.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELFAST A-71
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION DAYS DAWNS QUIETLY
TAGS: PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005